

Message Text

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64

ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CG-00 PM-04 MC-02

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R 151805Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3644

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DEPT PASS USDOT AND USDOC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, TGEN (MATTHOEFER, HANS)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FRG MINISTER MATTHOEFER

REF: A. STATE 242669 B. BONN 15737 C. BONN 15152

1. A FEW DAYS PRIOR TO MATTHOEFER DELEGATION DEPARTURE, EMBASSY DISCUSSED VISIT TOPICS WITH APPROPRIATE FRG OFFICIALS. AT THAT TIME MINISTER PLANNED DISCUSS WITH DOT ONLY TOPIC MENTIONED PARA 2 REF A. MINISTER DECIDED TO RAISE QUESTION OF COAST GUARD PROCUREMENT OF GERMAN PLANES ON EVE OF VISIT.

2. MINISTER RAISED SAME TOPIC DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE OFFICIALS ON OCTOBER 8. EMBASSY S&T COUNSELOR, WHO ACCOMPANIED MINISTER DURING U.S. VISIT, RECALLS THAT EVEN FRG EMBASSY OFFICIAL APPEARED POORLY BRIEFED ABOUT THIS TOPIC. HE IMPLIED THAT POSSIBLE U.S. PURCHASE OF GERMAN AIRCRAFT WAS SURPRISE TO HIM. MINISTER MATTHOEFER RESPONDED THAT GERMAN EMBASSY SHOULD "CHANGE ITS WAYS. AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BONN WOULD HAVE CALLED AT MY OFFICE LONG AGO*"

3. THERE HAS BEEN NO EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT IN THE MATTER OF COAST GUARD PROCUREMENT OF VFW 614'S. MAAG HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOLLOWED THE QUESTION TO SOME EXTENT ONLY BECAUSE OF ITS

CONNECTION WITH FRG PURCHASE OF AMERICAN-MADE S3A'S.
WHEN ABOUT THREE YEARS AGO THE DOT INVITED BIDS ON
BEHALF OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD FOR FORTY-ONE AIR-SEA
RESCUE AIRCRAFT, VFW TENDERED FOR THE CONTRACT. JUST
AFTER THE RECENT PARIS AIR SHOW, THREE BUNDESTAG
DEPUTIES WHO HAD ATTENDED THE SHOW ADVOCATED
BEFORE THE BUNDESTAG THAT THE PURCHASE OF S3A'S BE MADE
CONTINGENT ON U.S. ACCEPTANCE OF THE VFW 614 TENDER.
THIS WAS REPEATED SHORTLY AFTER PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT,
APPARENTLY PEGGED TO A STATEMENT HE MADE ABOUT THE USG
AND FRG ACTING BI-LATERALLY WHEN MULTI-LATERAL ARRANGE-
MENTS DID NOT MEET MUTUAL NEEDS. TO MAAG'S KNOWLEDGE
THERE HAS BEEN NO APPROACH MADE BY ANY FRG OFFICIAL TO
THE EMBASSY OR OTHER USG ORGANIZATION EITHER ON U.S.
PURCHASE OF THE 614 OR LINKING OF THAT PURCHASE AND THE
S3A. UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY POTTER MET WITH
FMOD OFFICIAL MANN OCTOBER 8, AND THE LATTER TOLD
HIM THAT THE FRG WOULD BUY THE S3A AS SOON AS THE LEGAL
PROCEDURES WERE COMPLETED. SO FAR AS EMBASSY AWARE, HE
MADE NO MENTION OF THE 614. THERE WAS A TEN MAN COAST
GUARD TECHNICAL EVALUATION TEAM IN GERMANY A FEW WEEKS
AGO TO MAKE A DETAILED EVALUATION OF THE AIRCRAFT.
HILLENBRAND

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